

Fact Sheet

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Labor Market Report Highlights March 2015

Learn about the difference between seasonally adjusted and not seasonally adjusted numbers [here](#).

Labor Force and Unemployment

- The March 2015 seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.2 percent, unchanged from February and down from 4.6 percent in March 2014.
- The March 2015 not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Kansas was 4.4 percent, unchanged from February, and down from 5 percent one year ago.
- There were 11,170 initial claims for unemployment benefits in March 2015, down from 13,070 in February and up from 9,669 in March 2014. There were 103,382 continued claims in March, up from 97,413 the previous month and down from 108,777 in March 2014. These numbers include all available programs.
- The seasonally adjusted Kansas labor force participation rate was 68.1 percent in March, compared to 62.7 percent nationally.

Jobs Data

Seasonally Adjusted

- The state added 16,100 seasonally adjusted private sector jobs over the year, a 1.4 percent gain. Kansas gained 15,400 seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs since March 2014, a 1.1 percent increase.
- Seasonally adjusted private sector jobs decreased by 1,400 since last month, a 0.1 percent decline. Since February, the state lost 2,400 seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs, a 0.2 percent decrease.

Not Seasonally Adjusted

- Kansas gained 13,500 private sector jobs since March 2014, a 1.2 percent increase. The state gained 13,900 nonfarm jobs over the year, a 1 percent increase.
- Private sector jobs increased by 4,500 since February, a 0.4 percent increase. Over the month, Kansas gained 5,700 nonfarm jobs, a 0.4 percent increase.

Industry Breakdown

- Nine of the 11 major industries in Kansas reported over the year job gains. These gains were greatest in:

- Leisure and hospitality increased by 4,000 jobs, a 3.4 percent gain. The gains were in accommodation and food services.
- Professional and business services gained 2,600 jobs, a 1.6 percent increase, with increases throughout the sector.
- Education and health services added 2,600 jobs, a 1.4 percent gain, with increases throughout the sector.
- Two of the 11 major industries reported statewide over the year job losses. These were in:
 - Manufacturing declined by 1,000 jobs, or 0.6 percent. The losses were in non-durable goods manufacturing.
 - Mining and logging decreased by 500 jobs, or 4.8 percent.
- Seven of the 11 major industries in Kansas reported over the month job gains. The gains were greatest in:
 - Construction increased by 2,000 jobs, or 3.5 percent, with increases throughout the sector.
 - Leisure and hospitality gained 1,300 jobs, a 1.1 percent increase, with gains throughout the sector.
 - Government added 1,200 jobs, or 0.5 percent. The increases were at all levels.
- Four of the 11 major industries in Kansas reported a loss over the month. The losses were greatest in:
 - Trade, transportation and utilities declined by 400 jobs, or 0.2 percent. The losses were in retail trade.
 - Information decreased by 200 jobs, or 0.7 percent.
 - Professional and business services lost 200 jobs, or 0.1 percent. The declines were in professional, scientific and technical services.

Private Sector Earnings

Not Seasonally Adjusted

- Private sector average weekly earnings increased by \$17.23, or 2.3 percent, since last year, to a total of \$783.87.
- Manufacturing increased the most in earnings since last year. Average weekly earnings in manufacturing increased by \$59.87, or 6.2 percent, since March 2014, to a total of \$1,031.75.
- Trade, transportation and utilities also had notable increases. Average weekly earnings increased by \$54.23, or 7.8 percent, since last year, to a total of \$752.55.

The April 2015 Labor Report will be released on Friday, May 22.

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